



**Lehman Walker, City Manager**

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TO: Federal Communications Commission

FROM: Lehman Walker, City Manager *Lehman Walker*

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RE: Improvements to Location Accuracy of Wireless Calls to 9-1-1

In November 2009 the voters of St. Louis County expressed their growing concerns that 9-1-1 calls placed from mobile phones or wireless devices could not be accurately traced to their location. A 1/10 cent sales tax that was approved by citizens and is now being used to develop a new interoperable radio system and dispatching centers for police and fire responders, expanded coverage for the County siren alert system, as well as a new system to derive the location of mobile phone calls to 9-1-1.

In St. Louis County, 70% of 9-1-1 calls now originate from cell phones with no address provided. It is critical that 9-1-1 response systems be able to accurately and quickly obtain location information from the callers as is the case with landlines. Many mobile callers, such as the elderly, visitors, children, and others in an emergency are not aware of their precise location, which leads to increased response time in an already dangerous situation. It is the responsibility of government officials at all levels to reduce the response time and therefore the risk.

In order for citizen needs to be met regarding wireless 9-1-1 calls, a standardized packet of accurate location information must be sent automatically from mobile devices to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's). For this missing link to be created, the FCC needs to quickly adopt and implement regulations.

Fire, police, citizen representatives and County official's diligent work is nearing completion regarding mapping updates of the region. We are currently investigating the software and hardware needed to properly outfit PSAP's, using voter approved funds. However, this work will be wasted without the standardized submission of accurate location information automatically sent with wireless 9-1-1 calls. The wireless system needs to function like the landline system that delivers an address with each call to 9-1-1.

In the strongest terms possible, we request action in the immediate future on the part of the Federal Communications Commission to require that standardized location information be sent from all mobile devices calling 9-1-1.